

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 28

By Hill M

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Joseph W. Corso of Johnson City.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Joseph W. Corso; and

WHEREAS, Joe Corso was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Corso was born in Oak Park, Illinois, on July 12, 1942, to James and Margaret Fischer Corso; and

WHEREAS, Joe Corso received his secondary education at Quigley Preparatory Seminary in Chicago, Illinois, where he excelled in basketball; and

WHEREAS, he earned his bachelor's degree from Loyola University, his master's degree *cum laude* from the University of Notre Dame, and his doctorate from the University of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Corso served with acumen and alacrity as a teacher, serving in positions at the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Central Methodist University in Fayette, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Joe Corso began his estimable tenure with East Tennessee State University (ETSU) in 1974, and, for the next four decades, he served as Assistant Professor of Political Science; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Corso worked to develop and support one of the university's flagship endeavors, the Master of City Management Program, which he served as its Director; and

WHEREAS, active in his community, he served as the ETSU Director of the Tennessee Legislative Internship Program, as a member and President of the Faculty Council for the ETSU College of Arts and Sciences, and as Producer and Moderator for Legislative Chat, the public

affairs program produced in cooperation with the ETSU Department of Communication for public television, for ten years; and

WHEREAS, Joe Corso was also active in politics throughout his life; he was elected to the Johnson City Board of Education and served as a member and Vice Chairman of the Washington County Regional Planning Commission, member of the Johnson City Board of Zoning Appeals, and member of the Johnson City Development Authority Land Use and Design Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Corso was elected to the Washington County Commission and served as Chairman of the Rules and Government Operations committees and as a member of the Steering and Education committees; and

WHEREAS, Joe Corso was an avid supporter of local artists, and he collected their works and contributed to their progress; and

WHEREAS, his numerous accomplishments aside, Dr. Corso was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Rocco Corso; a sister, Mary Lynne Corso Kasch; a grandson, George Campbell; and his first wife, Barbara Scanlan Corso; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Corso is survived by his wife, Phyllis Jennings Corso; two sons, Gerald Corso and Jonathan Corso; one daughter, Jennifer Corso; two grandchildren, Yalina Corso and Gabe Corso; two stepdaughters, Amy Jennings and Suzanne Jennings; two brothers, Michael Corso (Beth) and James Corso (Amy); nieces and nephews, Steve, David, Michael, Jamie, Christine, Matthew, Charlie, and Gina; and eleven grandnieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Joe Corso leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Joseph W. Corso, reflecting fondly upon his

impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Corso.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.